

*Defense Appropriations Amendment Adds Report Language to Keep Tabs on Department's Energy Use and Management*

Washington, D.C. -- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today successfully attached language to the Fiscal Year 2012 Defense Appropriations Bill's accompanying report to require the Pentagon to centralize data on energy use with the goal of making the Department of Defense less dependent on fossil fuels. The amendment, which was adopted by voice vote during the full committee's markup, directs the Secretary of Defense to report to the Congressional Defense Committees on plans to address energy requirements.

"The Department of Defense is the largest energy consumer in the world and its energy challenge is at least fourfold," Hinchey said. "It's a strategic challenge, in that our nation is largely dependent on foreign oil. It's a fiscal challenge, because for every dollar increase per barrel in oil prices, the Department's fuel costs jump by \$130 million. It's a tactical challenge, given that too many of our troops are stuck with the dangerous job of transporting fuel, instead of participating in offensive missions. And it's a human challenge: for every 24 fuel convoys in Afghanistan and Iraq, one warfighter is killed or injured. If we can make our military more energy efficient and reduce the number of refueling convoys, we won't just save taxpayer dollars while protecting our environment, we'll also save lives. My amendment would help address the lack of centralized information and management regarding the Department's energy use."

The full text of the Amendment follows:

The Committee strongly supports efforts to reduce the Department's dependence on fossil fuels, increase the supply of renewable energy, and develop energy technology that will make servicemen and woman safer and more effective in the field. According to the Department, for every 24 fuel convoys that go into Afghanistan and Iraq, one warfighter is killed or wounded and for every extra dollar in the price of a barrel of oil, the Department's fuel costs increase by \$130 million. The Committee is deeply concerned with the strategic, fiscal, tactical and human costs associated with Department's energy needs and recognizes that investments are necessary to mitigate these challenges. Accordingly, the Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to report to the Congressional Defense Committees within 90 days on the funding and programming included in the Fiscal Year 2012 budget and the Future Years Defense Plan to address energy requirements.